

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Added text is underlined and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:
selecting, according to a first user, a preference of an investment or a weighted apportionment of assets for a set of investments, the first user being a member of a first population of users, which are members of a virtual community identified as investment analysts;
~~receiving, over a wide-area network, [(WAN)] an indication of [[a]] the preference; of a user from a first population of users that form a virtual community, the first population of users is identified as investment analysts, the preference from the user is a selection of an investment or an allocation for the investment that the user provides to the virtual community, and the user becomes a member of the virtual community upon completion of a personal profile;~~
aggregating the preference into a database of previously received preferences from the first population, the aggregation being [[a]] an updated set of preferences; and
deriving, in response to the updated set of preferences, a position of a financial product for a second user, the second user is a member of a second population of users ~~in response to the set of preferences, the second population of users~~ which are members of the virtual community and identified as investors, and the financial product is a mutual fund.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating with each preference in the set of preferences, a ranking of each submitting user; and
screening the set of preferences based on the ranking.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein deriving comprises:
identifying within the set of preferences a first subset of preferences having a capitalization and a trading volume consistent with ~~predefined~~ a set of investing objectives of the mutual fund.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
screening the first subset of preferences based on a ranking of ~~a submitting~~ the first user to create a second subset of preferences.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each previously received preference represents a stock in a model portfolio of ~~[[a]]~~ for each user, the method further comprising:
ranking the model portfolio relative to a population of model portfolios; and
providing rewards based on a reward structure to ~~submitters~~ the submitting users of high performing model portfolios.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving from an investor currency units to be invested in the mutual fund;
~~screening the set of preferences to identify a security to be added to the mutual fund; and~~
adding an identified investment to the mutual fund, the investment identified based on screening the set of preferences for an investment complying with a set of investing objectives of the mutual fund; and
establishing a new position of ~~the security in~~ the mutual fund based on the identified investment.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a request over the ~~[[WAN]]~~ wide-area network for information about the mutual fund; and
serving a page reflecting current holdings of the mutual fund over the ~~[[WAN]]~~ wide-area network.

9-12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
receiving recommendations for securities from a population of users over a wide area network (WAN);
generating a population weighted scale (PWS) for a first subset of the securities recommended; and
identifying position changes for a mutual fund from the first subset of securities recommended.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein generating a PWS comprises:
compiling a list of unique securities recommended by a population of users;
dollar weighting a first subset of the list of unique securities to have equal dollar weighting; and
multiplying securities in the first subset by a number of user from the population recommending the security.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
determining an industry weighting and a sector weighting of the PWS.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
reducing the first subset to a second subset having a predetermined discrete number of members.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein reducing comprises:
automatically eliminating from the second subset securities not satisfying predetermined criteria, including at least one of:
price to earning ratio, capitalization, trading volume, beta, alpha, and price to book ratio.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16 further comprising:
rebalancing the mutual fund based on existing fund weighting, an industry weighting of the PWS and a sector weighting of the PWS.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18 wherein rebalancing comprises:
applying a valuation screen to the mutual fund; and
allocating new money to a security from the second subset based on the application of the valuation screen.
20. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
establishing a naked fund;
receiving a request for current mutual fund information over a wide area network (WAN); and
transmitting current mutual fund information over the WAN.
21. (Withdrawn) A machine-implemented method comprising:
investing in a mutual fund; and
reviewing current fund holdings data received over a WAN from a server node.

22. (New) A machine-implemented method comprising:
- selecting, according to a first user, a preference of an investment or a weighted apportionment of assets for a set of investments, the first user a member of a first population of users, the first population of users members of a virtual community and identified as investment analysts;
 - receiving over a wide-area network an indication of the preference;
 - aggregating the preference into a database of previously received preferences from the first population, the aggregation being an updated set of preferences; and
 - deriving, in response to the updated set of preferences, a position of a financial product for a second user, the second user is a member of a second population of users which are members of the virtual community and identified as investors, and the financial product is a newsletter.
23. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising:
- screening the set of preferences to generate a recommended list of investments.
24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the screening is based on at least one of:
- ranking for the first user, class of securities in the recommended list of investments, capitalization, average trading volume, price to earnings ratio, return on investment, gross margin, and revenue growth rate over a selected time period; and
 - generating an analyst report for the first user that satisfies the investing objectives of the mutual fund.
25. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising:
- distributing the newsletter electronically; and
 - updating the analyst report and recommended list of investments with a frequency greater than weekly.